

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 16361 01 OF 02 231431Z

41

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 RSC-01 AID-05 EB-07 IOE-00 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 SP-02 NSC-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00

OIC-02 FRB-01 TAR-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-03 NSAE-00

SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 16361

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, EAGR

SUBJ: FAO COUNCIL: PRELIMINARY WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

FOLLOW-UP DEBATE

REF : ROME 16264

EB FOR PLACKE: IO FOR BYRNES

PASS USDA/FAS FOR FRASER AND IOA

SUMMARY: THIRTY-SIX DELEGATIONS SPOKE IN GENERAL DEBATE ON
WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22. MOST
STRESSED PRIORITY FAO MUST NOW GIVE TO IMPLEMENTING WFC
RESOLUTIONS AND QUESTIONED HOW FAO COULD GIVE PROMPT RESPONSE
TO MEET CHALLENGE. IN THIS CONNECTION, QUESTIONS OF REDE-
FINING FAO COUNCIL ROLE AND RESTRUCTURING FAO CAME UP.
GENERAL CONSENSUS EVOLVED THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHOULD BE
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PAGE 02 ROME 16361 01 OF 02 231431Z

GIVEN INTERIM AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT WFC FOLLOW-UP INVOLVING

FAO ACTIVITIES AND TO CONSULT WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES, SUBJECT TO FINANCIAL PROPOSALS PARA 13 (REFTEL) AND SUBJECT TO CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION HOW SUCH CONSULTATIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT, BUT NO GENERAL AGREEMENT REACHED. DELEGATION RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED SEPT. END SUMMARY.

1. FAO COUNCIL NOVEMBER 22 HELD WIDE-RANGING, CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 6, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY THE FAO. IN ADDITION TO WFC RESOLUTIONS, COUNCIL HAD BEFORE IT DOCUMENT CL 64/LIM/4 (REFTEL). DEBATE CENTERED ON SIX PRINCIPAL AREAS GIVEN BELOW. MOST DELEGATES, INCLUDING US, INDICATED THAT REMARKS WERE ONLY INFORMAL, PRELIMINARY COMMENTS PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS.

2. GENERAL. MANY DELEGATIONS AGREED WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA THAT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE REPRESENTED A TURNING POINT IN POLITICAL ASPECTS OF WORLD FOOD PROBLEM WHICH PRESENTED OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE FOR FAO. IN THEIR VIEW, FAO SHOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY AND CARRY OUT BROAD REORGANIZATION AND RE-STRUCTURING BASED ON PRIORITIES AGREED BY GOVERNMENTS IN THE WFC. SOME OF THESE DELEGATIONS (INDIA, COLOMBIA AND KENYA) BELIEVED THAT REORGANIZATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN URGENT FASHION; OTHERS, INCLUDING ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA, SRI LANKA, PERU, PREFERRED MORE ORDERLY PROCESS. THEY STRESSED THAT DEBATE ON ECOSOC AND UNGA SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, AS WELL AS ROLE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PROPOSED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. MOST OF THE LATTER DELEGATIONS BELIEVE THAT EITHER THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OR AN AD HOC WORKING PARTY SHOULD PREPARE A PRECISE EXAMINATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN SUGGESTED RESTRUCTURING OF FAO (INCLUDING DECENTRALIZATION) FOR PRESENTATION TO PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES AS WELL AS JUNE 1975 FAO COUNCIL. ALTERNATIVELY, PERU AND ALGERIA FELT THAT A SPECIAL SPRING SESSION OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONVENED TO DEAL INTER ALIA WITH THIS SUBJECT. SOME DELEGATES SAID THAT COUNCIL SHOULD DELAY DECISIONS UNTIL FURTHER ACTION BY UN BODIES.

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PAGE 03 ROME 16361 01 OF 02 231431Z

3. COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY. VAST MAJORITY DELEGATIONS FAVORED GRANTING AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AS PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF CL/64/LIM/4 TO CONVENE AN AD HOC CONSULTATION UNTIL THE NECESSARY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS CAN BE CONSIDERED IN THE FAO CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARIAT, MEMBERSHIP OF THIS CONSULTATION WOULD BE "OPEN"; THAT IS, ALL FAO MEMBER STATES WOULD BE ELIGIBLE AS WELL AS CERTAIN NON-MEMBERS (SUCH AS THE USSR).

FREQUENCY AND TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS WERE NOT SPECIFIED, BUT MOST DELEGATIONS FAVORED "ONE OR TWO" MEETINGS DURING INTERIM PERIOD. IN REGARD TO TERMS OF REFERENCE, NO ONE COMMENTED ON WHETHER THEY SHOULD DIFFER FROM THOSE GIVEN IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP. HOWEVER, AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE SUGGESTED THAT THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP WOULD ALSO FULFILL ROLE PERTAINING TO CONSULTATIONS EXPRESSED IN UNDERTAKING. USDEL (FRASER) STRESSED THAT CONVENING AD HOC GROUP SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNDERTAKING, I.E., THOSE ADHERING TO UNDERTAKING WOULD HAVE STAKE IN DETERMINING FOLLOW-UP ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING REVIEW AND CONSULTATIONS. NO DELEGATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXT ROLE OF RESERVES COORDINATING GROUP.

4. COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. CONSENSUS OF PRELIMINARY DEBATE WAS THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHOULD BE GIVEN INTERIN AUTHORITY REQUESTED PARAGRAPH 4, CL/64/LIM/4 PROVIDING HE PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION IN VIEW OF LACK OF CLARITY ON IMPLICATIONS OF RECONSTITUTING IGC WITH WIDER RESPONSIBILITIES. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WFP (AQUINO) STATED THAT CERTAIN CHANGES IN STAFF WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE NEW MANDATE AGREED IN WFC. SOME DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED RESERVATION THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHOULD NOT ACT TOO SWIFTLY IN THAT UNGA ALSO HAD STAKE IN ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION OF IGC. OTHERS CAUTIONED THAT IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE MEMBERSHIP TO MEET NEW MANDATE, ORIGINAL FUNCTION AND CONTROL OF WFP MIGHT BE LOST. PROBLEM OF RELATION TO OTHER BODIES ADMINISTERING MULTILATERAL FOOD AID PROGRAMS ALSO POINTED OUT.

5. TECHNICAL FOLLOW-UP. WIDE CONSENSUS FORMED IN REGARD TO PARAGRAPHS 8, 9, 10 AND 11 OF CL/64/LIM/4 THAT PROPOSALS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 16361 01 OF 02 231431Z

WERE ESSENTIALLY "TECHNICAL" AND WERE GENERALLY DESERVING OF URGENT ATTENTION. IT WAS NOTED THAT SOME ACTIVITIES SUCH AS COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS AND INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM WERE ALREADY IN EXISTENCE IN FAO. THUS, VAST MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING US, ENDORSED THESE TECHNICAL PROPOSALS, SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES AS NECESSARY.

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PAGE 01 ROME 16361 02 OF 02 232237Z

73

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 RSC-01 AID-05 EB-07 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10

EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 SP-02

NSC-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-02

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 16361

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, EAGR

SUBJ: FAO COUNCIL: PRELIMINARY WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

FOLLOW-UP DEBATE

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6. SERVICING PROPOSALS: PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 7 OF CL 64/LIM/4
DEAL WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINGENT APPROVAL BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
FOR OFFERING SERVICING ARRANGEMENTS TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
AND TO CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT

(CGFPI). IN ADDITION, PARA 7 ASKS COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION TO
SEEK A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR SERVICING THE PROPOSED
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PAGE 02 ROME 16361 02 OF 02 232237Z

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN
REGARD TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, MOST DELEGATIONS STATED THAT

DIRECTOR-GENERAL HAD CLEAR MANDATE TO OFFER FACILITIES OF FAO SECRETARIAT AT EARLIEST APPROPRIATE TIME. DIFFERENCE OF OPINION DEVELOPED, HOWEVER, OVER WHETHER FAO STAFF FOR SERVICING COUNCIL SHOULD BE SEPARATE GROUP, IDENTIFIABLE WITHIN FAO SECRETARIAT OR WHETHER ENTIRE FAO SECRETARIAT SHOULD SERVICE COUNCIL. NO CONSENSUS EVOLVED ON THIS QUESTION. IN REGARD TO CGFPI, LITTLE OPPOSITION VOICED TO GRANTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO NECESSARY COMMITMENTS AS PROVIDED IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP RESOLUTION. ON INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SENTENCE 1, PARA 7) MANY DELEGATIONS POINTED OUT THAT FAO HAD NO EXPLICIT MANDATE FROM WFC TO SEEK COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH THIS BODY. THEY CAUTIONED THAT SECRETARIAT MIGHT BE GOING TOO FAR. DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA REPLIED THAT WFC RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT REFERRED TO ROLE FOR "INSTITUTIONS" AND THEREFORE FAO SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO OFFER ITS ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE FUND. THERE WAS A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD MAINTAIN CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON SERVICING PROPOSALS OF THIS NATURE. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CONTROL, SOME SAID THEY FAVORED SPECIAL FAO COUNCIL MEETING IN SPRING TO REVIEW PROGRESS; OTHERS SUGGESTED THAT AN AD HOC WORKING PARTY BE FORMED TO HELP THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN THE INTERIM PERIOD; STILL OTHERS BELIEVED THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHOULD REPORT ON REGULAR BASIS TO GOVERNMENTS THROUGH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME AND/OR CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

7. FINANCING. SOME DELEGATIONS (INCLUDING AUSTRALIA AND UNITED STATES) STATED THAT MORE DETAIL SHOULD BE PROVIDED UNDER PARA 13 OF CL 64/LIM/4 ON PROJECTED COSTS OF PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY THE SECRETARIAT TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO ARRIVE AT DECISIONS ON DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS. IN ADDITION TO COST ESTIMATES ON EACH ITEM, IT WAS STRESSED THAT COUNCIL SHOULD BE AS FULLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE ON SOURCES OF FUNDS IN CURRENT BUDGET BY OPENING OF DEBATE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27. GIVEN ABOVE PROVISIO, THERE WAS A PRELIMINARY CONSENSUS THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ROME 16361 02 OF 02 232237Z

AUTHORIZED TO MAKE EXPENDITURES UNDER PARA 13 ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY BE LIMITED AT THIS TIME TO ACTIVITIES NOT CONTINGENT ON DECISIONS BY OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS.

8. SUMMARY BY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: IN SUMMARIZING COUNCIL DEBATE, CHAIRMAN HIGHLIGHTED NUMBER OF POINTS LIKELY TO ARISE IN FINAL DEBATE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27. HE SAID FAO STRENGTHENED BY WFC DECISIONS. FAO HAD NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES. IT NEEDED SUPPORT OF

GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICAL WILL TO CARRY OUT RESOLUTIONS. DIRECTOR-GENERAL DOCUMENT (LIM/4) ON AUTHORIZATIONS HE NEEDS HAD BEEN USEFUL. COUNCIL GENERALLY AGREED ON GRANTING AUTHORIZATIONS DIRECTOR-GENERAL REQUESTED, SUBJECT TO HIS CONSULTING WITH GOVERNMENTS AND OBTAINING THEIR AGREEMENT PRIOR TO MAKING COMMITMENTS.

(A) ON NEW COMMITTEES: AD HOC CONSULTATIONS ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING USSR AND COULD BE INITIATED BY FAO, SINCE WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE WAS TO BE CREATED AS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE FAO COUNCIL. FOOD AID COMMITTEE NEEDED LINKAGE TO OTHER BODIES (SUCH AS IWC) AND HENCE REQUIRED STUDY AND NEGOTIATION BETWEEN FAO AND OTHER AGENCIES. PROPOSED AD HOC COMMITTEES TO EXAMINE FUNCTIONING OF COUNCIL AND OF FAO STRUCTURE AND TO EXAMINE FAO FIELD PROGRAMS LIKELY TO INTERFERE RATHER THAN HELP FAO GET ON WITH NECESSARY WORK AT THIS TIME.

(B) ON PROGRAM PRIORITIES: WFC GAVE FAO AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT ON PRIORITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. FAO SHOULD FOLLOW THESE IN LAYING OUT ITS PROGRAM OF WORK. ALSO, FAO NEEDED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITS REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND TO MAINTAIN PROGRAMS, SUCH AS FORESTRY, NOT COVERED BY WFC.

(C) ON DIRECTOR-GENERAL RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS IN MONTHS AHEAD: GOVERNMENTS WANTED CLOSE CONSULTATIONS AND INVOLVEMENT IN FAO DECISIONS. VEHICLES FOR THIS COULD BE STANDING COMMITTEES, ESPECIALLY FOR PROGRAM AND FINANCE, A SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION, REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS WITH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME OR SOME OTHER MECHANISM. UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 ROME 16361 02 OF 02 232237Z

DIRECTOR-GENERAL NEEDED TO CLARIFY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERIM AND LONGER TERM ACTIVITIES BEFORE CONCLUSION THIS SESSION OF COUNCIL. VOLP

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